

-continued

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What is claimed is:

1. A cell that is an immunostimulatory cell or precursor cell thereof, which cell recombinantly expresses (a) a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), and (b) a dominant negative form of an inhibitor of a cell-mediated immune response of the immunostimulatory cell, wherein the CAR binds to a viral antigen.

2. A population of immunostimulatory cells or precursor cells thereof, which cell population comprises cells that recombinantly express (a) a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), and (b) a dominant negative form of an inhibitor of a cell-mediated immune response of the immunostimulatory cell, wherein the CAR binds to a viral antigen.

3. The cell or cell population of claim 1 or 2, wherein the immunostimulatory cell is a T cell.

4. The cell or cell population of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the precursor cell is a hematopoietic stem or hematopoietic progenitor cell.

5. The cell or cell population of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the immunostimulatory cell is a cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL).

6. The cell or cell population of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cell is a T cell.

7. The cell or cell population of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cell is a Natural Killer (NK) cell.

8. The cell or cell population of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cell is a memory T cell.

9. The cell or cell population of claim 8, wherein the memory T cell is a memory CD8⁺ T cell.

10. A T cell that recognizes and is sensitized to a viral antigen, which T cell recombinantly expresses a dominant negative form of an inhibitor of a T cell-mediated immune response.

11. The T cell of claim 10 which is immunostimulatory.

12. The T cell of claim 10 or 11 which is CD4⁺.

13. The T cell of claim 10 or 11 which is CD8⁺.

14. A population of T cells, which cell population comprises T cells that recognize and are sensitized to a viral

antigen and which recombinantly express a dominant negative form of an inhibitor of a T cell-mediated immune response.

15. The population of claim 14, wherein the T cells are immunostimulatory.

16. The population of claim 14 or 15, wherein the T cells are CD4⁺.

17. The population of claim 14 or 15, wherein the T cells are CD8⁺.

18. The cell or cell population of any one of claims 1-17, wherein it is derived from a human.

19. The cell or cell population of claim 18, wherein the viral antigen is of a virus that is a human pathogen.

20. The cell or cell population of any one of claims 1-19, wherein the viral antigen can elicit an immune response in a human subject infected with the virus.

21. The cell or cell population of any one of claims 1-20, wherein the viral antigen is selected from the group consisting of a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) antigen, a hepatitis B virus (HBV) antigen, a hepatitis C virus (HCV) antigen, a herpes simplex virus (HSV) antigen, a varicella zoster virus (VZV) antigen, an adenovirus antigen, a cytomegalovirus (CMV) antigen, and an Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) antigen.

22. The cell or cell population of claim 21, wherein the viral antigen is a HIV antigen selected from the group consisting of group-specific antigen (gag) protein, p55, p24, p18, envelope glycoprotein (env), gp160, gp120, gp41, reverse transcriptase (pol), p66, and p31.

23. The cell or cell population of claim 21, wherein the viral antigen is a HBV antigen selected from the group consisting of HBV envelope protein S, HBV envelope protein M, HBV envelope protein L, and the S domain of HBV envelope protein S, M or L.

24. The cell or cell population of claim 21, wherein the viral antigen is a HCV antigen selected from the group consisting of core protein, envelope protein E1, envelope protein E2, NS2, NS3, NS4, and NS5.

25. The cell or cell population of claim 21, wherein the viral antigen is a HSV antigen selected from the group